

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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USIA FOR IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EG, US, IS, PLO, XF
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN REACTION TM LATEST PEACE MOVES

REF: CAIRO 15063

1. EGYPTIAN DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY AND REACTION TO ISRAELI PEACE
PLAN COMPETED FOR PRESS COVERAGE SEPTEMBER 11-12. PRESS PLAYS
UP PREPARATIONS FOR FAHMY U.S. VISIT. FAHMY EXPECTED ADDRESS
FOUR-YEAR U.S.-GOE EFFORT TOWARDS SETTLEMENT AND CONOLIDATION
OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. INTENSIVE EGYPTIAN CONTACTS IN ISLAMIC
AND NONALIGNED WORLD REPORTEDLY PRODUCING FIRM SUPPORT FOR
ARAB POSITION ON OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. LENDING HIS WEIGHT
TO ARAB CAMPAIGN, ARAB LEAGUE SYG RIAD LEAVING FOR
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NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 24. (HE LEAVES CAIRO FOR PARIS SEPT. 23.)

2. ISRAELI PEACE PLAN. AHRAH LEAREND "FROM DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES"
THAT ISRAELI PLAN DOES NOT LINK ISRAELI DEMANDS AND WITHDRAWAL
AND THAT IT DIFFERS WITH U.S. CONCEPT OF SETTLEMENT, I.E. "U.S.
PROPOSAL LINKS ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH TOTAL WITH-
DRAWAL EXCEPT FOR SLIGHT MODIFICATIONS OF BORDERS." DAYAN

DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON, REPORTS SAY, WILL CENTER ON DETERMINING ISRAELI ATTITUDE TOWARDS CONCEPT OF PEACE AND ITS RELATION TO WITHDRAWAL, ISRAELI ATTITUDE ON FUTURE OF PALESTINIANS, AND DEFINITION OF ISRAELI STAND WITH REGARD TO CONTINUING ESTABLISHMENT OF SETTLEMENTS.

3. EDITORIALS REACT TO BEGIN'S PEACE PLAN WITH COLD DISGUST. AHAM COMMENTED THAT NOBODY EXPECTED BEGIN TO ADVANCE REASONABLE PROPOSALS AND THAT NEW PLAN PROVES THERE NO HOPE FOR GENUINE CHANGE IN ISRAELI POSITION. CURRENT ISRAELI STAND, FOR AHAM, IS RESULT OF SERIES OF PREMEDITATED STEPS DESIGNED TO STYMIE AMERICAN POLICY AND EMBARRASS PRESIDENT CARTER. ARABS WOULD HAVE REACTED NERVOUSLY IN PAST BUT AL COUNCIL MEETING PROVES THAT "REASON AND WISDOM ARE PREVAILING THEME IN CURRENT ARAB THINKING". ARAB SIDE DETERMINED PRESS AHEAD WITH PEACE CAMPAIGN "TO GRANT ALL CONCERNED PARTIES ALL POSSIBLE CHANCES." AHAM OBSERVED THAT ONLY U.S. HAS CAPACITY TO PUT AN END TO PRESENT PEACE CAMPAIGN. IT FOUND LITTLE CONSTRUCTIVE IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S REMARKS "THAT HE MAY LOSE HIS ENTHUSIASM TO EXERT CONTINUED EFFORTS FOR PEACE" IF PARTIES FAIL DEMONSTRATE MORE INTEREST. ACCORDING AHAM, "IF U.S. FAILS TO RESPOND TO ISRAEL'S CHALLENGES", OR IF U.S. PRESIDENT "PREFERS TO ABANDON HIS EFFORTS OR IF PRESENT PHASE COMES TO END WITHOUT POSITIVE STEPS TOWARDS PEACE, WE SHOULD REALIZE THE SITUATION WILL RETURN TO WHAT IT WAS BEFORE 1973 WHICH MEANS THE END OF SEARCH FOR PEACE."

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4. AT SAME TIME, SOME COMMENTARY ABLE TO FIND RAYS OF LIGHT IN PRESIDENT'S ARTICULATION OF U.S. VIEWS. GUMHURIYYA THUS FOCUSED ON PRESIDENT'S CONCLUSION IN PRESS CONFERENCE "THAT ISRAEL DEFYING U.S. POLICY IN MIDDLE EAST", AND HIS INFERENCE THAT THIS DEFIANCE IS WELL CALCULATED RATHER THAN SPONTANEOUS. GUMHURIYYA CONCLUDED HOPEFULLY THAT THIS CONTRIBUTION TO ISRAEL'S POLITICAL ISOLATION ULTIMATELY WILL FORCE IT TO RECOGNIZE THAT THERE IS PALESTINIAN TERRITORY WHICH MUST ATTAIN STATEHOOD.

5. COMMENT: PRE-UN CHARIVARI DWELLS ON ARAB HOPE THAT REASON WILL TRIUMPH AND ISRAEL WILL NOT IN FACT BE ABLE TO FLOUT WORLD OPINION WITH IMPUNITY FOREVER. ALTHOUGH MAKING BEST OF SITUATION, EGYPTIANS DISHEARTENED BY U.S. REFUSAL THUS FAR TO SWAY ISRAEL AND DISMAYED BY PRESIDENT'S REMARKS THHAT U.S. MAY DECREASE INTENSITY OF ITS EFFORTS IN SEARCH OF PEACE. TWO SENIOR MFA OFFICIALS REMARKED PRIVATELY TO POLCOUS THAT PRESIDENT'S "WARNING" (A) PLAYED COMPLETELY INTO HANDS OF ISRAELIS WHO EAGER TO HAVE U.S. PLAY ONLY PASSIVE, MIDDLE-MAN ROLE; AND (B) SUGGESTED PRESIDENT DID NOT UNDERSTAND EXTENT TO WHICH U.S. ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND STRATEGIC INTERESTS THROUGHOUT ARAB WORLD WOULD BE THREATENED

BY COLLAPSE OF PEACE PROCESS. SAME OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS
OTHER EGYPTIANS, WERE HEARTENED BY PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT CON-
FIRMING ISRAELI "DEFIANCE", BUT ASKED WHEN U.S. WAS GOING
TO BACK UP SUCH STATEMENT WITH ACTIONS.
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Sent Date: 12-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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